

EXHIBIT

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Expert Report, Maryland Shall Issue v. Anne Arundel County

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1 **My Qualifications**

2 I am an Emeritus Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University. I
3 received my doctorate in Sociology from the University of Illinois in 1979, where I received the
4 University of Illinois Foundation Fellowship in Sociology. I was the David J. Bordua Professor of
5 Criminology at Florida State University from 1978 to 2016. My research has focused on the impact
6 of firearms and gun control on violence, and I have been called “the dominant social scientist in
7 the field of guns and crime” (Vizzard, 2000, p. 183).

8 I have published the most comprehensive reviews of evidence concerning guns and violence
9 in the scholarly literature, which informs and serves as part of the basis of my opinions. I am the
10 author of Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America, which won the 1993 Michael J. Hindelang
11 Award of the American Society of Criminology, awarded to the book of the previous several years
12 which "made the most outstanding contribution to criminology." Subsequently, I authored
13 Targeting Guns (1997) and, with Don B. Kates, Jr., The Great American Gun Debate (1997) and
14 Armed (2001).

15 I have published scholarly research in all of the leading professional journals in my field.
16 Specifically, my articles have been published in the American Sociological Review, American
17 Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Social Problems, Criminology, Journal of Criminal Law and
18 Criminology, Law & Society Review, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Journal of
19 Quantitative Criminology, Law & Contemporary Problems, Law and Human Behavior, Law &
20 Policy Quarterly, Violence and Victims, Journal of the American Medical Association, and other
21 scholarly journals.

22 More specifically, I have published seven scholarly articles and chapters on the relationship
23 between firearms and suicide.

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2 I have testified before Congress and state legislatures on gun control issues, and worked as
3 a consultant to the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences Panel on the
4 Understanding and Prevention of Violence, as a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission's
5 Drugs-Violence Task Force, and, most recently, as a member of the Institute of Medicine and
6 National Research Council Committee on Priorities for a Public Health Research Agenda to
7 Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence. I am a referee for over a dozen professional
8 journals, and serve as a grants consultant to the National Science Foundation.

9 Finally, for over 30 years I taught doctoral students how to do research and evaluate the quality
10 of research evidence. I taught graduate courses on research design and causal inference, statistical
11 techniques, and survey research methodology. My current curriculum vitae is attached as
12 Appendix A..

13 I am being compensated for my work at the rate of \$400 per hour.

14

15 **My Expert Opinions**

16 Anne Arundel County (hereinafter “the County”) compels firearms dealers to distribute a
17 pamphlet (“Firearms and Suicide Prevention”) that asserts that “Access to lethal means including
18 firearms and drugs” is a “risk factor” for suicide, further explaining that “risk factors are
19 characteristics or conditions that increase the chance that a person may try to take their life.” That
20 is, the County, via this pamphlet, is claiming that access to firearms causes an increased chance of
21 a person committing suicide. This assertion will be hereafter referred to as “the suicide claim.”

22 It is my expert opinion that the suicide claim is not supported by the most credible available
23 scientific evidence and is probably false. The suicide claim is contradicted by much of the

1 available scientific evidence, and is indisputably *not* purely factual and uncontroversial
2 information.

3 Further, as a logical point, the County’s mandate to require only firearms dealers to distribute
4 this pamphlet is under-inclusive as to who might be distributing materials whose availability might
5 affect suicide. The ordinance does not require pharmacies to distribute the pamphlet, even though
6 it explicitly identifies access to drugs as a risk factor for suicide. Further, the pamphlet cited
7 “firearms and drugs” in a non-comprehensive way, as merely as examples of “lethal means,” using
8 the wording “Access to lethal means *including* firearms and drugs” (emphasis added). The
9 ordinance, however, does not require hardware stores and other suppliers of rope to distribute the
10 pamphlet, even though rope can be used to fashion a noose for use in a suicide. This is especially
11 noteworthy in light of the fact that hanging is the second-most common method of suicide in the
12 United States (Kleck 2019a). Likewise, the ordinance does not require the owners of tall apartment
13 buildings and hotels to distribute the pamphlet, even though jumping from high places is also a
14 common method of suicide. The narrow, indeed exclusive, focus of the ordinance on firearms
15 dealers is arbitrary and inconsistent with accepted information on the many and varied ways that
16 people commit suicide.

17 The exclusive focus on firearms dealers could conceivably be justified if shooting was a
18 uniquely lethal method of suicide, but it is not. The best available national data indicates that there
19 is no significant difference in the percent of suicide attempters who die between those who attempt
20 suicide by hanging (the second-most common suicide method) and those who do so by shooting
21 (Kleck 2019a, pp. 317-320). Indeed, there are subtypes of most other suicide methods that are
22 almost certainly 100% fatal, such as jumping from a 20th story window or a similarly high bridge
23 or cliff, or swallowing 30 barbiturate tablets in combination with a pint of alcohol. Thus, there is

1 no justification for the County’s ordinance to require only firearms dealers to distribute suicide
2 prevention materials.

3

4 **The Evidence on the Potential Effect of Gun Access on Suicide**

5 *Popular Opinion.*

6 Leaving aside scientific evidence for the moment, the County’s suicide claim is highly
7 controversial in the sense that it is contrary to the views held by the vast majority of Americans.
8 The issue of whether gun access makes suicide more likely was posed in the following way to a
9 representative sample of U.S. adults in a national survey conducted for the Pew Research Center
10 in April of 2017. Respondents were asked:

11 “Thinking about people who commit suicide using a gun, which comes closer to your view,
12 even if neither is exactly right?...

13

14 - They would find a way to do it whether they had access to a gun or not.

15

16 - They would be less likely to do it if they didn't have access to a gun.”

17

18 75% endorsed the first view, that those attempting suicide with gun would, if denied a gun, still
19 have committed suicide (Roper Center, 2022 - iPoll Database). In short, three out of four
20 Americans would disagree with the County’s claim the access to firearms causes an increase in
21 the chance that a person will commit suicide.

22 *The Purported Scientific basis for the Suicide Claim – Case-control Studies.*

23 The purported scientific basis for the suicide claim consists almost entirely of poor quality
24 “case-control” studies. These are studies that compare persons who committed suicide with people
25 who did not – either persons still living or persons who had died of some non-suicide cause. As
26 nonexperimental studies, the validity of their findings is critically dependent on the extent to which

1 researchers statistically control or adjust for confounding factors. In this context, a confounding
2 factor would be an attribute that affects suicide but that also happens to be correlated with access
3 to firearms. For example, gender is a confounder since being male increases the likelihood of
4 committing suicide but also makes it more likely a person will own guns. If a researcher measured
5 the association between guns and suicide but failed to control for gender, they would attribute a
6 higher likelihood of committing suicide to gun access that was actually due to being male.

7 To illustrate how important controlling for confounders is, consider one of the confounders,
8 suicidal intent (SI). No one disputes that having a stronger desire or motivation to kill one's self
9 makes it more likely that the person will actually do so. A stronger SI, however, is also likely to
10 induce some people to acquire a gun for the purpose of carrying out the suicide attempt. Even if
11 possessing or using a gun did not actually influence whether a person attempted suicide or whether
12 an attempt was fatal, one could still find higher gun ownership among those who killed themselves
13 because people *believed* that shooting was more lethal than other methods. That is, one would
14 find a positive guns/suicide association. But this would be a non-causal "spurious" association
15 between guns and suicide. Having a gun does not necessarily cause a higher risk of suicide; rather,
16 having a stronger SI caused the higher risk of suicide, and also caused a higher likelihood of gun
17 ownership (to provide the means for committing suicide), creating a non-causal association
18 between gun ownership and suicide.

19 One need not speculate what happens to the guns/suicide association once suicidal intent
20 is controlled, because Brent and his colleagues (1988) measured SI and controlled for it while
21 estimating the suicide/guns association. Before controlling for SI, there was a strong, significant
22 association between gun access and suicide. Once the researchers introduced a control for SI,
23 the association was no longer significant. The finding was later replicated in another analysis of

1 a somewhat larger overlapping sample by the same group of researchers. When they introduced
2 the control for SI, the guns/suicide association was halved (Brent et al. 1991).

3 What makes case-control studies so hard to execute in a competent fashion likely to yield
4 credible findings about the effect of gun access is that there are so many confounders. That is,
5 many suicide risk factors happen to be correlated with gun ownership, and the confounders' effects
6 are easily confused with any possible effects of gun access on suicide.

7 The following are partial lists of some of the likely confounders that should be controlled
8 in case-control studies, but almost never are. We can start with a list of some variables that are
9 *known* to be associated with both gun ownership and suicide, and then consider variables known
10 to be related to gun ownership, for which there also are strong theoretical reasons to expect that
11 they affect suicide, but no empirical evidence testing the proposition.

12 a. *Known Confounders of the Guns/Suicide Association*

13 The first set of variables are those that have empirically documented associations with
14 both gun ownership/possession and suicide:

15 (1) Strength of suicidal intent (in studies that compared completed suicides vs. attempts). No
16 one disputes that persons more determined to kill themselves are more likely to do so - the
17 proposition is virtually a tautology. It is also true, however, that people more intent on
18 committing suicide are more likely to choose more lethal suicide methods such as shooting or
19 hanging to attempt suicide, and some will acquire guns specifically for the purpose of using them
20 to commit suicide. Supporting these ideas, Brent et al. (1988) initially found a significant
21 positive guns/suicide association, but once they controlled for strength of suicidal intent, no
22 significant association remained.

1 (2) Age. Middle-aged persons are more likely to own guns (Kleck 1997, p. 101) and more likely
2 to commit suicide (Wiebe 2003, p. 777).

3 (3) Sex. Males are more likely to own guns (Kleck 1997, p. 101) and more likely to commit
4 suicide (Wiebe 2003, p. 777) .

5 (4) Race. African-Americans are less likely to own guns than whites (Kleck 1997, p. 101), and
6 less likely to commit suicide (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2016).

7 (5) Region. People living in the Northeast part of the U.S. are less likely to own guns than
8 people in other regions (Kleck 1997, p.101), and less likely to commit suicide (Wiebe 2003, p.
9 779).

10 (6) Marital status. Married people are more likely to own guns than unmarried people (Kleck
11 1997, p.101), and are less likely to commit suicide (Wiebe 2003, p. 779).

12 (7) Income. Poor people are less likely to own guns than middle- or upper-income people (Kleck
13 1997, p. 101), but more likely to commit suicide (Wiebe 2003, p. 777).

14 (8) Living alone. People who live alone are less likely to own guns than persons who live with
15 others (Kleck 1997), and (surprisingly) are also less likely to commit suicide (Wiebe 2003, p.
16 779).

17 (9) Education. College graduates are less likely to own guns (Kleck 1997, p.102), and less likely
18 to commit suicide (Wiebe 2003, p. 777).

19 (10) Population size of place of residence. People who live in places with larger populations are
20 less likely to own guns (Kleck 1997, p. 102), and less likely to commit suicide than people who
21 live in places with smaller populations (Wiebe 2003, p. 779).

22 (11) Alcoholism or heavy drinking. Alcohol abuse and heavy drinking are positively associated
23 with gun ownership (Brent 2001; Hemenway and Miller 2002) and positively associated with

1 suicide (Brent, Perper, and Allman 1987; Kellermann 1992; Rivara, Mueller, Somes, Mendoza,
2 and Kellermann 1997; Brent 2001).

3 (12) Illicit drug use. Illicit drug use is positively associated with firearm ownership (Carter,
4 Walton, Newton, Cleary, Whiteside, Zimmerman and Cunningham 2013; Rivara et al. 1997),
5 and positively associated with suicide (Kellermann 1992; Brent 2001).

6 (13) Gang membership. Gang members are more likely to own guns than other youth (Callahan
7 and Rivara 1992, p. 3042) and are more likely to commit suicide (Knox and Tromanhauser
8 1999).

9 (14) Experience as a victim of violent crime, especially sexual assault. Experience as a victim of
10 violent crime is positive associated with gun ownership (Kleck 1997) and positively associated
11 with suicide (Bryan, Mcnaughton-Cassill, Osman, and Hernandez 2013).

12 (15) Sociability. Diener and Kerber (1979) found that gun owners are less sociable than
13 nonowners. Those who are more socially isolated and who have less social support are more
14 likely to commit suicide (Trout 1980).

15 *b. Likely Confounders of the Guns/Suicide Association*

16 The following are variables known to be related to gun ownership, and for which there is
17 sound theoretical reasons to believe that they would affect suicide, but as yet no empirical
18 evidence testing such effects.

19 (16) Self-reliance/self-blame. Gun owners are known to be more self-reliant (Feagin 1970), and
20 there are sound reasons to believe this makes people more prone to suicide. A person possessing
21 a personality that emphasizes self-reliance and a belief that they are in charge of their own fate is

1 also more likely to believe that they are to blame for their own problems when things go wrong.

2 A person who blames themselves for their problems is more likely to commit suicide.

3 (17) Residence in a high-crime area. Living in high-crime places makes people more likely to
4 acquire guns for self-protection, especially handguns (Kleck 2015, p. 44), and the many life
5 stresses common to such places are likely to make suicide more likely.

6 (18) Perception of the world as a hostile place. People who believe they are surrounded by
7 threats of victimization are more likely to own guns for self-protection (Kleck 1997), but also
8 more likely to believe there are few people around them who would be willing to help them with
9 their problems. This lack of felt social support is likely to raise the risk of suicide.

10 (19) Drug dealing. Drug dealing is positively associated by possession of firearms (Sheley and
11 Wright 1992), and is likely to be positively correlated with suicide due to both the misery
12 produced by the drug addiction that commonly accompanies drug dealing and the intense
13 emotional stress produced by the ongoing risk of arrest, imprisonment, or death at the hands of
14 one's customers and competitors.

15 This list is by no means comprehensive. One could no doubt add still more variables to
16 the list. Controlling for these 19 variables can nevertheless be seen as the start of a serious effort
17 to estimate the causal effect of gun ownership on suicide. One distinct pattern evident among
18 these confounders should be stressed: almost all are factors that are positively correlated with
19 both gun ownership and suicide. The effect of failing to control for such a variable is to bias the
20 estimate guns/suicide association upward, i.e. to make it larger and more positive, and thus more
21 supportive of the suicide claim than it should be. Analysts failing to control for a variable like
22 this will wrongly attribute to gun ownership the suicide-elevating effects of the confounder. The
23 more confounders of this type the researcher fails to control, the worse the distortion.

1 How well have case-control researchers studying the gun/suicide association done in
2 controlling for confounders? Based on my systematic 2019 review of the case-control literature
3 (Kleck 2019a, Gun Studies chapter 17), the short answer is “very poorly.” *Not a single study has*
4 *controlled for even half of the aforementioned confounders.* Most researchers controlled for
5 fewer than four confounders and many controlled for none at all!

6 Further, it is evident that most of the researchers in this field have not even made an
7 earnest effort to identify confounders. Doing so would necessarily require reviewing research on
8 the correlates of gun ownership, not just the determinants of suicide. Yet none of the authors of
9 case-control studies cite even a single review of gun ownership patterns (e.g. Wright and Rossi
10 1986; Sheley and Wright 1995; Kleck 1997), and usually do not even discuss whether their
11 control variables are correlated with gun ownership. Variables uncorrelated with gun ownership
12 do not have any effect on the guns/suicide association, so only controls for variables that *are*
13 correlated with gun access, as well as suicide, help produce less biased estimates of the effect of
14 gun access on suicide. Unless authors in this area have been unusually modest about their
15 scholarly efforts, and failed to report reviews of gun correlates that they did conduct, they could
16 not have made a systematic search for confounders since this necessarily would have required
17 knowing the correlates of gun ownership. Instead, the common practice appears to be to include
18 in the analysis whatever correlates of suicide have been identified by prior suicide researchers,
19 no matter how poorly chosen, and regardless of whether they are correlated with gun ownership.

20 Summary of the Case-control Research: Until researchers make a serious effort to
21 measure and control for confounding variables, case-control studies will have little to say about
22 the causal effect of gun access on suicide. Thus, the case-control literature does not offer a
23 credible scientific basis for the County’s suicide claim.

1

2

3 *A Contrary Body of Evidence: Macro-level Studies of the Association of Gun Rates and Suicide*4 *Rates*

5 Macro-level studies examine the association of gun rates with suicide rates among
6 aggregates like the populations of cities, states, regions, or nations. For example, some
7 researchers have studied whether nations with higher gun ownership rates have higher suicide
8 rates (e.g. Kleck, 2021). Since committing suicide with a gun requires, as a matter of definition,
9 access to a gun, it is no surprise that places with higher gun ownership rates have higher rates of
10 *gun* suicide. This, however, does not imply that more people commit suicide in places with more
11 gun ownership, since it may only mean that a higher fraction of people who kill themselves do so
12 with guns. The critical issue, then, is whether higher gun rates cause higher *total* suicide rates.

13 Of 29 macro-level studies, 15 found no significant association between gun rates and
14 total suicide rates (Kleck 2019b, Table 1). The full body of research, however, is even less
15 supportive of the suicide-elevating effect of guns than this distribution of findings suggests, since
16 the supportive studies are far more technically flawed than the studies yielding unresponsive
17 findings. Much of this body of research is plagued by the same methodological problems
18 afflicting case-control studies. For example, this review found that in 26 of 32 analyses, the
19 researchers did not control for a single variable that was shown to be significantly related to
20 suicide rates, and only two of the remaining six controlled for more than three such variables.

21 This problem makes a huge difference in the results. For example, Miller, Lippman,
22 Azrael and Hemenway (2007) reported a significant suicide/guns association controlling for six
23 variables, but my reanalysis of their data found that none of their six control variables were

1 confounders. Five of the six were not significantly related to suicide rates, and the remaining
2 one was not correlated with gun ownership. When I reestimated their model including six
3 genuine confounders, 84% of the suicide/guns association disappeared, and the remaining
4 association was not significantly different from zero (Kleck 2019b, Table 2).

5 Many macro-level studies are also flawed because they use invalid or “contaminated”
6 measures of gun ownership levels. A gun measure can be contaminated in the sense that it
7 includes counts of suicide. Some researchers used the percent of suicides committed with guns
8 (PSG) as a measure of gun levels, i.e. gun suicides/total suicides. This is problematic because
9 the number of gun suicides is also part of the suicide rate, (gun suicides + nongun
10 suicides)/population. Thus, an analyst who uses PSG as a gun measure and finds it related to the
11 suicide rate is to some extent finding that the number of gun suicides is correlated with itself – a
12 meaningless finding. Of 32 macro-level analyses, 12 used contaminated or invalid measures of
13 gun levels.

14 Excluding the most flawed studies, the findings of macro-level studies are
15 overwhelmingly contrary to the proposition that more access to firearms causes more suicides.
16 The technically strongest macro-level studies find no significant association between gun
17 ownership rates and total suicide rates. All studies that reported controlling for more than two
18 significant confounders and that used an uncontaminated measure of gun levels found that higher
19 rates of gun ownership are not significantly associated with higher rates of *total* suicide rates
20 (Kleck 2019b, Table 1).

21 More access to guns appears to affect how many people *use guns* to commit suicide, but
22 not how many kill themselves (Kleck 2019b). There is no public health benefit to merely getting
23 people to kill themselves with non-firearms methods but without reducing the total number of

1 people who kill themselves. Thus, a gun control measure that appeared to reduce firearms
2 suicide but not total suicides would be a failure from the standpoint of public health. This is why
3 the County’s experts’ citation of the association of gun availability (or gun control laws) with
4 *firearms* suicide, but without addressing its association with total suicide is so misleading (for
5 examples, see Kalyanaraman 2022, p. 4, Point 16, citation of Siegel study; p. 5, Point 16,
6 concluding sentence).

7 **Claims by the County’s Experts**

8 Anne Arundel County (hereafter “the County”) offers reports from two individuals,
9 Alexander McCourt (hereafter AM) and Nilesh Kalyanaraman (hereafter NK). The latter is not
10 in any meaningful sense an expert on the effects of firearms or gun control measures on suicide,
11 so his expert report can carry no weight regarding the accuracy of the claims in the “Firearms
12 and Suicide Prevention” pamphlet that access to firearms increases “the chance that a person
13 may try to take their life.” NK has never published a single scholarly article on this issue, and
14 does not claim to have ever conducted any relevant research. His second-hand knowledge of the
15 research of others is highly selective, primitive, and wholly uncritical. His report makes no
16 effort to distinguish technically stronger studies from weaker ones, and uncritically accepts the
17 conclusions stated even in the most seriously flawed studies. The report shows no evidence that
18 NK was even aware of the critical flaws afflicting the research he cites, or that he ever received
19 any training that would allow him to identify methodological flaws or know what research
20 procedures are available to avoid or ameliorate those problems.

21 More specifically, NK never once addresses the principal flaw in the research in this area
22 – the failure to control for confounding variables. Without statistically controlling for
23 confounding variables, it is impossible to reliably assess the impact of firearms access or

1 separate its impact from that of suicide-affecting factors with which gun access happens to be
2 correlated. Like Dr. McCourt, NK shows no sign of even being aware of this problem, never
3 mind applying such knowledge to assessing the scientific reliability of the studies on which he
4 relies.

5 The report of Dr. McCourt (AM) requires more detailed consideration because AM has
6 more serious credentials bearing on whether firearms access is a risk factor for suicide.
7 Nevertheless, his Expert Report is seriously misleading regarding what the scientific literature
8 has to say about this question.

9 AM's summary of what he believes research has shown on this question is compromised
10 by his complete failure to apply any critical standards to the studies on which he relies. As far as
11 one can tell from his Report, he considers all research equally valid, and believes that one can
12 always take researchers' conclusions at face value. This is not an accepted scientific stance and
13 is especially unhelpful when one is assessing a body of research as seriously flawed as the
14 research on the impact of firearms on suicide. Each of the studies on which AM relies have their
15 own serious problems, but one that characterizes all of them is the aforementioned failure to
16 control for confounding variables. Studies such as those cited in AM's Point 7 (p. 2, fn. 3-7)
17 made no serious effort to do this, instead only performing irrelevant controls for variables that
18 either had no significant effect on suicide or had no known correlation with gun ownership.
19 Controlling for such variables is worthless in an effort to isolate the effect of gun access.

20 AM's characterization of the macro-level research on the effect of gun access on suicide
21 is inaccurate. Macro-level research studies can examine any large units or populations such as
22 states, counties, cities, regions, or nations. AM's carefully worded claim is that "*State-level*
23 *analyses* have found that states with higher rates of gun ownership generally have higher levels

1 of overall suicide and firearm suicide” (p. 2, Point 7, emphasis added). This claim is misleading
2 because most macro-level studies other than those examining states have *not* found that areas
3 with higher rates of gun ownership have higher levels of overall suicide. If one does not cherry-
4 pick state-level studies and comprehensively reviews the entire body of macro-level studies, one
5 finds that there is generally no relationship between firearm rates and overall suicide rates (Kleck
6 2019a, Table 1, pp. 939-941. I found that 15 of 29 macro-level analyses found no significant
7 association between these variables.

8 More significantly, only the most methodologically flawed macro-level studies find
9 support for this claim. These poor quality studies all have at least one, and usually most of the
10 following flaws:

- 11 (1) they fail to control for confounders, i.e. other factors that both affect suicide rates and are
12 correlated with gun ownership rates,
- 13 (2) they use an invalid measure of gun ownership levels,
- 14 (3) they study extremely small samples of areas (as few as six), yielding high unstable
15 results, and
- 16 (4) they study unduly large, heterogeneous areas, with the result that researchers fail to
17 discover that it is not the subareas with higher gun rates that have the higher suicide rates.

18

19 Making distinctions between stronger studies and weaker ones is highly consequential with
20 this body of research. For example, if one separately considers studies that controlled for more
21 than two confounders (surely a minimal effort) and used valid measures of gun levels, *not a*
22 *single one* supports AM’s claim that higher gun levels cause higher overall suicide rates (Kleck

1 2019a, pp. 939-941, 948). In sum, AM’s characterization of this body of research relies on (1) a
2 cherry-picked subset of the relevant research that is unrepresentative of the full set of studies,
3 and (2) an unscientific reliance on the methodologically weakest studies.

4 At only one point in his report, AM does allude to “controlling for other factors” (p. 2, point
5 7), but fails to note that the variables controlled in most of the studies in this area were *not*
6 known confounders, either because they were not shown to be significantly related to suicide or
7 they were uncorrelated with access to firearms. Since such controls are worthless for isolating
8 the effect of gun access on suicide, it was irrelevant at best, misleading at worst for AM to state
9 (p. 2) that “research has consistently shown that suicide deaths are more likely to occur in homes
10 with firearms than homes without firearms, *even after controlling for other factors.*” (p. 2,
11 emphasis added). Public health researchers like AM typically do not document that even a single
12 one of the “other factors” that they control for are actually confounders.

13 There are at least 19 confounders of the guns/suicide relationship, i.e. factors that both affect
14 suicide and are correlated with gun ownership (Kleck 2019b, pp. 310-312), yet no study has ever
15 controlled for even half of them. Indeed, only three studies controlled for more than four of
16 them (p. 316). This body of research therefore does not provide a scientifically sound basis for
17 the assertion that access to firearms increases the risk of suicide.

18 AM presents a similarly distorted view of the scholarly research on the issue of the relative
19 lethality of different suicide methods. The underlying issue in this area is whether firearms
20 provide a uniquely lethal method of suicide and whether other methods likely be substituted for
21 shooting if guns were unavailable would be equally likely to have fatal outcomes. AM distorts
22 the issue (p. 3, point 8) by comparing the case fatality rate (CFR) of shooting suicide attempts

1 with the CFR of poisoning attempts. This comparison is misleading and irrelevant because it is
2 implausible that people with sufficiently lethal intentions to shoot themselves in the head would,
3 if a gun were not available, substitute one of the *least* lethal methods of suicide. A more
4 meaningful comparison is between shooting and an alternate method of sufficient lethality that it
5 is actually likely to be substituted for shooting if a gun were not available.

6 AM fails to note that the CFR of the second-most common method of suicide, hanging, is not
7 significantly different from that of shooting attempts – national data indicate that both are about
8 80% (Kleck 2019b, p. 319). Thus, if people who otherwise would have attempted suicide by
9 shooting did not have guns and substituted hanging as their method, the best available evidence
10 indicates that just as many attempters would die.

11 This brings up another of AM’s misleading claims. He states (p. 3, Point 8) that “Multiple
12 studies have estimated the case fatality rate for firearms at approximately 90%.” What he omits
13 is that nearly all *other* studies, besides the handful he cites (see his fn. 8-10), do *not* find CFRs
14 this high for firearms attempts. A more comprehensive review of studies comparing the CFRs of
15 shooting attempts with those of hanging attempts reveals CFRs as low as 75% for shooting
16 attempts and as high as 90% for hanging attempts. Two studies even found higher CFRs for
17 hanging attempts than for shooting attempts (Kleck 2019b, pp. 318-319). In sum, there is no
18 scientific consensus that shooting is a more lethal method of suicide than hanging, the method
19 most likely to be substituted for shooting if a firearm were not available.

20 AM also ignores a large body of research indicating that much of the higher CFR of shooting
21 attempts is attributable to the greater lethality of suicidal intentions of attempters using firearms,
22 rather than the lethality of the method itself. Most suicide attempters do not want to die, but

1 rather are making “a cry for help,” communicating the depth of their suffering to those around
2 them. That is, they have less-than-lethal suicidal intentions. They consequently are more likely
3 to use less lethal methods, such as swallowing a small number of pills or cutting a few superficial
4 scratches on their wrists. In contrast, people with strong intentions to die are more likely to use
5 methods like shooting or hanging (see evidence reviewed in Kleck 2019b, pp. 321-323).

6 The difference in lethality of intentions between shooting attempters and other attempters is
7 huge. Denning and his colleagues (2000) measured suicidal intent among persons who had
8 committed suicide, and found that suicidal intent was 6.3 times higher among those who had
9 used firearms than among those using other methods. Thus the differences in CFRs of suicide
10 attempts by shooting and attempts by other methods could easily be entirely attributable to the
11 far stronger suicidal intentions of those who chose to use firearms, rather than the lethality of the
12 method itself. In sum, AM’s uncritical belief that firearms provide a uniquely lethal method of
13 suicide is unsupported by a fuller review of the relevant scientific research. As far as one
14 currently tell, on the basis of the existing body of evidence, the absence of a firearm in the home
15 of a lethally minded suicide attempter would merely result in the substitution of other methods
16 with equally frequent fatal outcomes – just as most Americans believe.

17 AM inserted a discussion of the impact of gun control laws on suicide in his report (p. 4,
18 Point 13), but it is unclear why since the current case does not concern any gun control laws of
19 the sort addressed in AM’s discussion. Certainly the County’s challenged ordinance did not
20 introduce a license or permit for gun ownership or acquisition, and neither of the required
21 pamphlets made any claims about the effectiveness of gun control laws. In any case, AM’s
22 claims on this topic are inaccurate. He asserts that “laws requiring a permit or license to

1 purchase a gun have consistently been found to have a relationship with reductions in homicide
2 and suicide” (p. 4, Point 13). The results of these studies, however, appear consistent to AM
3 only because he cherry-picked only poor quality public health studies to consider, and ignored
4 the more technically sound social science studies that did *not* find that licensing and permit laws
5 reduce suicide (e.g., Kleck and Patterson 1993, p. 271; Cook and Ludwig 2000). The studies on
6 which AM relied (see his footnotes 27 and 30) used a nonscientific research design in which the
7 researchers selectively identified isolated episodes in which introduction of new state gun laws
8 happened to be followed by declines in suicide – without establishing whether there were even
9 more instances of changes in gun laws in which suicide rates remained unchanged or even
10 increased. These “studies” amount to little more than statistical anecdotes, and have no scientific
11 value for assessing the impact of gun laws on suicide.

12 In sum, neither of the County’s experts provide any scientifically sound basis for the claim
13 that access to firearms causes an increased risk of suicide.

14 **Overall Summary of Scientific Evidence:**

15 There is at present no reliable body of scientific evidence to support the County’s claim,
16 via its mandated “Firearms and Suicide Prevention” pamphlet, that access to firearms causes an
17 increase in the risk that a person will kill themselves. The claim is at best highly questionable; at
18 worst, it is false.

19

20

21

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19

1 **Appendix A – Kleck Vitae**

2 CURRICULUM VITAE

3
4 GARY KLECK

5
6 (Updated May 27, 2021)

7
8 **PERSONAL**

9
10 Place of Birth: Lombard, Illinois

11
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27
28 **CURRENT POSITION**

29
30 David J. Bordua Emeritus Professor of Criminology, Florida State University

31
32 **COURTESY APPOINTMENT**

33
34 Courtesy Professor, College of Law, Florida State University

35
36 **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

37
38 American Society of Criminology

39
40 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

41
42 **EDUCATION**

43

1
2 Criminology, Applied Statistics, Regression, Introduction to Research Methods, Law
3 Enforcement, Research Methods in Criminology, Guns and Violence, Violence Theory
4 Seminar, Crime Control, Assessing Evidence, Survey Research, Research Design and
5 Causal Inference.

6
7 DISSERTATION

8
9 Homicide, Capital Punishment, and Gun Ownership: An Aggregate Analysis of U.S.
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- 32 1984 "Handgun-only gun control: a policy disaster in the making." Pp. 167-199 in
33 Kates, above.
34
- 35 1996 "Racial discrimination in criminal sentencing." Pp. 339-344 in Crime and
36 Society, Volume III – Readings: Criminal Justice, edited by George Bridges,
37 Robert D. Crutchfield, and Joseph G. Weis. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Pine
38 Forge Press.
39
- 40 1996 "Gun buy-back programs: nothing succeeds like failure." Pp. 29-53 in
41 Under Fire: Gun Buy-Backs, Exchanges and Amnesty Programs, edited by
42 Martha R. Plotkin. Washington, D.C.: Police Executive Research Forum.
43
- 44 2000 "Firearms and crime." Pp. 230-234 in the Encyclopedia of Criminology and
45 Deviant Behavior, edited by Clifton D. Bryant. Philadelphia: Taylor

1 & Francis, Inc.

- 2
- 3 2001 (with Leroy Gould and Marc Gertz) "Crime as social interaction." Pp. 101-114 in
- 4 What is Crime?: Controversy over the Nature of Crime and What to Do About It,
- 5 edited by Stuart Henry and Mark M. Lanier. Lanham, Md.: Rowman and
- 6 Littlefield.
- 7
- 8 2003 "Constricted rationality and the limits of general deterrence." Chapter 13 in
- 9 Punishment and Social Control: Enlarged Second Edition, edited by Thomas G.
- 10 Blomberg. New York: Aldine de Gruyter.
- 11
- 12 2004 "The great American gun debate: what research has to say." Pp. 470-487 in The
- 13 Criminal Justice System: Politics and Policies, 9th edition, edited by George F.
- 14 Cole, Marc Gertz, and Amy Bunger. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth-Thomson.
- 15
- 16 2008 "Gun control." Article in The Encyclopedia of Social Problems, edited by
- 17 Vincent N. Parrillo. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- 18
- 19 2009 "Guns and crime." Invited chapter. Pp. 85-92 in 21st Century Criminology: A
- 20 Reference Handbook, edited by J. Mitchell Miller. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- 21
- 22 2012 Kovandzic, Tomislav, Mark E. Schaffer, and Gary Kleck. "Gun prevalence,
- 23 homicide rates and causality: A GMM approach to endogeneity bias." Chapter
- 24 6, pp. 76-92 in The Sage Handbook of Criminological Research Methods, edited
- 25 by David Gadd, Susanne Karstedt, and Steven F. Messner. Thousand Oaks, CA:
- 26 Sage.
- 27
- 28 2012 (with Kelly Roberts) "What survey modes are most effective in eliciting
- 29 self-reports of criminal or delinquent behavior?" Pp. 415-439 in Handbook of
- 30 Survey Methodology for the Social Sciences, edited by Lior Gideon. NY:
- 31 Springer.
- 32
- 33 2013 "An overview of gun control policy in the United States." Pp. 562-579 in The
- 34 Criminal Justice System, 10th edition. Edited by George F. Cole and Marc G.
- 35 Gertz. Wadsworth.
- 36
- 37 2014 "Deterrence: actual vs. perceived risk of punishment. Article in Encyclopedia of
- 38 Criminology and Criminal Justice. Berlin: Springer Verlag.
- 39
- 40 2019 "The effect of firearms on suicide." Pp. 309-329 in Gun Studies: Interdisciplinary
- 41 Approaches to Politics, Policy, and Practice, edited by Jennifer Carlson, Kristin
- 42 Goss, and Harel Shapira. NY: Routledge.
- 43
- 44 2019 "Gun control." Pp. 153-166 in The Handbook of Social Control, edited by
- 45 Mattieu Deflem. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

- 1
2 2021 "Research on guns and crime." Chapter in The Encyclopedia of Research
3 Methods and Statistical Techniques in Criminology and Criminal Justice, edited
4 by J. C. Barnes and David R. Forde for Wiley Blackwell.

5
6 BOOK REVIEWS

- 7
8 1978 Review of Murder in Space City: A Cultural Analysis of Houston Homicide
9 Patterns, by Henry Lundsgaarde. Contemporary Sociology 7:291-293.
10
11 1984 Review of Under the Gun, by James Wright et al. Contemporary Sociology
12 13:294-296.
13
14 1984 Review of Social Control, ed. by Jack Gibbs. Social Forces 63: 579-581.
15
16 1985 Review of Armed and Considered Dangerous, by James Wright and Peter Rossi,
17 Social Forces 66:1139-1140.
18
19 1988 Review of The Citizen's Guide to Gun Control, by Franklin Zimring and Gordon
20 Hawkins, Contemporary Sociology 17:363-364.
21
22 1989 Review of Sociological Justice, by Donald Black, Contemporary Sociology
23 19:261-3.
24
25 1991 Review of Equal Justice and the Death Penalty, by David C. Baldus, George G.
26 Woodworth, and Charles A. Pulaski, Jr. Contemporary Sociology 20:598-9.
27
28 1999 Review of Crime is Not the Problem, by Franklin E. Zimring and Gordon
29 Hawkins. American Journal of Sociology 104(5):1543-1544.
30
31 2001 Review of Gun Violence: the Real Costs, by Philip J. Cook and Jens Ludwig.
32 Criminal Law Bulletin 37(5):544-547.
33
34 2010 Review of Homicide and Gun Control: The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention
35 Act and Homicide Rates, by J. D. Monroe. Criminal Justice Review 35(1):118-
36 120.
37

38
39 LETTERS PUBLISHED IN SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

- 40
41 1987 "Accidental firearm fatalities." American Journal of Public Health 77:513.
42
43 1992 "Suicide in the home in relation to gun ownership." The New England Journal of
44 Medicine 327:1878.
45

- 1 1993 "Gun ownership and crime." Canadian Medical Association Journal 149:1773-
2 1774.
- 3
- 4 1999 "Risks and benefits of gun ownership." Journal of the American Medical
5 Association 282:136.
- 6
- 7 2000 (with Thomas Marvell) "Impact of the Brady Act on homicide and suicide rates."
8 Journal of the American Medical Association 284:2718-2719.
- 9
- 10 2001 "Violence, drugs, guns (and Switzerland)." Scientific American 284(2):12.
- 11
- 12 2002 "Doubts about undercounts of gun accident deaths." Injury Prevention Online
13 (September 19, 2002). Published online at [http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/eletters](http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/eletters/8/3/252)
14 /8/3/252.
- 15
- 16 2005 "Firearms, violence, and self-protection." Science 309:1674. September 9, 2005.
- 17

18 UNPUBLISHED REPORT

- 19
- 20 1987 Violence, Fear, and Guns at Florida State University: A Report to the President's
21 Committee on Student Safety and Welfare. Reports results of campus crime
22 victimization survey and review of campus police statistics on gun violence (32
23 pages).
- 24

25 RESEARCH FUNDING

- 26
- 27 1994 "The Impact of Drug Enforcement on Urban Drug Use Levels and Crime Rates."
28 \$9,500 awarded by the U.S. Sentencing Commission.
- 29
- 30 1997 "Testing a Fundamental Assumption of Deterrence-Based Crime Control Policy."
31 \$80,590 awarded by the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation to study the link
32 between actual and perceived punishment levels.
- 33

34 PRESENTED PAPERS

- 35
- 36 1976 "Firearms, homicide, and the death penalty: a simultaneous equations analysis."
37 Presented at the annual meetings of the Illinois Sociological Association,
38 Chicago.
- 39
- 40 1979 "The assumptions of gun control." Presented at the annual meetings of the
41 American Sociological Association, New York City.
- 42
- 43 1981 "Lethality comparisons between handguns and weapons which might be
44 substituted in assault if handguns were prohibited." Presented at the
45 annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C.

- 1
2 1982 "Life support for ailing hypotheses: Modes of summarizing the evidence on
3 racial discrimination." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society
4 of Criminology, Toronto.
5
6 1984 "Policy lessons from recent gun control research." Presented at the Duke
7 University Law School Conference on Gun Control.
8
9 1985 "Policy lessons from recent gun control research." Presented at the annual
10 meetings of the American Society of Criminology, San Diego.
11
12 1986 "Miscounting suicides." Presented at the annual meetings of the American
13 Sociological Association, Chicago.
14
15 1987 (with Theodore G. Chiricos, Michael Hays, and Laura Myers) "Unemployment
16 and crime: a comparison of motivation and opportunity effects." Presented at the
17 annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Montreal.
18
19 1988 "Suicide, guns and gun control." Presented at the annual meetings of the Popular
20 Culture Association, New Orleans.
21
22 1988 (with Susan Sayles) "Rape and resistance." Presented at the annual meetings of
23 the American Society of Criminology, Chicago.
24
25 1989 (with Karen McElrath) "The impact of weaponry on human violence."
26 Presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, San
27 Francisco.
28
29 1989 (with Britt Patterson) "The impact of gun control and gun ownership levels on
30 city violence rates." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society
31 of Criminology, Reno.
32
33 1990 "Guns and violence: a summary of the field." Presented at the annual meetings
34 of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C.
35
36 1991 "Victim resistance and weapons effects in robbery." Presented at the annual
37 meetings of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco.
38
39 1991 "News media bias in covering gun control issues." Presented at
40 the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco.
41
42 1992 "Interrupted time series designs: time for a re-evaluation." Presented at the
43 annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology, New Orleans.
44
45 1993 (with Chester Britt III and David J. Bordua) "The emperor has no clothes: Using

- 1 interrupted time series designs to evaluate social policy impact." Presented at the
2 annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Phoenix.
3
- 4 1993 "Crime, culture conflict and support for gun laws: a multi-level application of the
5 General Social Surveys." Presented at the annual meetings of the
6 American Society of Criminology, Phoenix.
7
- 8 1994 (with Marc Gertz) "Armed resistance to crime: the prevalence and nature of self-
9 defense with a gun." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society
10 of Criminology, Miami.
11
- 12 1995 (with Tom Jordan) "The impact of drug enforcement and penalty levels on urban
13 drug use levels and crime rates." Presented at the annual meetings of
14 the American Society of Criminology, Boston.
15
- 16 1996 (with Michael Hogan) "A national case-control study of homicide offending and
17 gun ownership." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of
18 Criminology, Chicago.
19
- 20 1997 "Evaluating the Brady Act and increasing the utility of BATF tracing data."
21 Presented at the annual meetings of the Homicide Research Working Group,
22 Shepherdstown, West Virginia.
23
- 24 1997 "Crime, collective security, and gun ownership: a multi-level application of the
25 General Social Surveys." Presented at the annual meetings of the American
26 Society of Criminology, San Diego.
27
- 28 1998 (with Brion Sever and Marc Gertz) "Testing a fundamental assumption of
29 deterrence-based crime control policy." Presented at the annual meetings of the
30 American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C.
31
- 32 1998 "Measuring macro-level gun ownership levels." Presented at the annual meetings
33 of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C.
34
- 35 1999 "Can owning a gun really triple the owner's chances of being murdered?"
36 Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology,
37 Toronto.
38
- 39 2000 "Absolutist politics in a moderate package: prohibitionist intentions of the gun
40 control movement." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of
41 Criminology, San Francisco.
42
- 43 2001 (with Tomislav V. Kovandzic) "The impact of gun laws and gun levels on crime
44 rates." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology,
45 Atlanta.

- 1
2 2001 "Measures of gun ownership levels for macro-level violence research." Presented
3 at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta.
4
5 2002 "The effects of gun ownership levels and gun control laws on urban crime rates."
6 Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology,
7 Chicago.
8
9 2003 (with Tomislav V. Kovandzic) "The effect of gun levels on violence rates depends
10 on who has them." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of
11 Criminology, Denver.
12
13 2003 (with KyuBeom Choi) "Filling in the gap in the causal link of deterrence."
14 Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of
15 Criminology, Denver.
16
17 2004 (with Tomislav Kovandzic) "Do violent crime rates and police strength levels in
18 the community influence whether individuals own guns?" Presented at the annual
19 meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Nashville.
20
21 2004 (with Jongyeon Tark) "Resisting crime: the effects of victim action on the
22 outcomes of crime." Presented at the annual meetings of the American
23 Society of Criminology, Nashville.
24
25 2004 (with Jongyeon Tark) "The impact of self-protection on rape completion and
26 injury." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of
27 Criminology, Nashville.
28
29 2004 (with Kyubeom Choi) "The perceptual gap phenomenon and deterrence as
30 psychological coercion." Presented at the annual meetings of the American
31 Society of Criminology, Nashville.
32
33 2005 (with Jongyeon Tark) "Who resists crime?" Presented at the annual meetings of
34 the American Society of Criminology, Toronto.
35
36 2005 (with Jongyeon Tark and Laura Bedard) "Crime and marriage." Presented at the
37 annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Toronto.
38
39 2006 (with Shun-Yang Kevin Wang) "Organized gun trafficking, 'crime guns,' and
40 crime rates." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of
41 Criminology, Los Angeles.
42
43 2006 "Are police officers more likely to kill black suspects?" Presented at the annual
44 meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Los Angeles.
45

- 1 2007 (with Shun-Yang Kevin Wang) “The myth of big-time gun trafficking.” Presented at
2 the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta.
3
- 4 2007 (with Marc Gertz and Jason Bratton) “Why do people support gun control?”
5 Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology,
6 Atlanta.
7
- 8 2010 (with J. C. Barnes) “Deterrence and macro-level perceptions of punishment
9 risks: Is there a “collective wisdom?” Presented at the annual meetings of the
10 American Society of Criminology, St. Louis.
11
- 12 2011 “The myth of big-time gun trafficking.” Presented at UCLA Law Review
13 Symposium, “The Second Amendment and the Right to Bear Arms After DC v.
14 Heller.” January 23, 2009, Los Angeles.
15
- 16 2009 (with Shun-Yung Wang) “Employment and crime and delinquency of working
17 youth: A longitudinal study of youth employment.” Presented at the annual
18 meetings of the American Society of Criminology, November 6, 2009,
19 Philadelphia, PA.
20
- 21 2009 (with J. C. Barnes) “Do more police generate more deterrence?” Presented at the
22 annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology, November 4, 2009,
23 Philadelphia, PA.
24
- 25 2010 (with J. C. Barnes) “Article productivity among the faculty of criminology and
26 criminal justice doctoral programs, 2005-2009.” Presented at the annual
27 meetings of the American Society of Criminology, November 18, 2010, San
28 Francisco, CA.
29
- 30 2012 (with Will Hauser) “Fear of crime and gun ownership.” Presented at the annual
31 meetings of the American Society of Criminology, November 18, 2010, San
32 Francisco, CA.
33
- 34 2010 “Errors in survey estimates of defensive gun use frequency: results from national
35 Internet survey experiments.” Presented at the annual meetings
36 of the American Society of Criminology, November 19, 2010, San Francisco, CA.
37
- 38 2010 (with Mark Faber and Tomislav Kovandzic) “Perceived risk, criminal
39 victimization, and prospective gun ownership.” Presented at the annual meetings
40 of the American Society of Criminology, November 19, 2010, San Francisco, CA.
41
- 42 2013 (with Shun-young Wang) “The impact of job quality and career commitment on
43 delinquency: conditional or universal?” Presented at the annual meetings
44 of the American Society of Criminology, November 17, 2011, Washington, D.C.
45

- 1 2011 (with Moonki Hong) “The short-term deterrent effect of executions on homicides
2 in the United States, 1984-1998.” Presented at the annual meetings
3 of the American Society of Criminology, November 16, 2011, Washington, D.C.
4
- 5 2011 (with Kelly Roberts) “Which survey modes are most effective in getting people
6 to admit illegal behaviors?” Presented at the annual meetings of the American
7 Society of Criminology, November 17, 2011, Washington, D.C.
8
- 9 2011 (with Will Hauser) “Pick on someone your own size: do health, fitness, and size
10 influence victim selection?” Presented at the annual meetings
11 of the American Society of Criminology, November 18, 2011, Washington, D.C.
12
- 13 2011 (with Tomislav Kovandzic) “Is the macro-level crime/punishment association
14 spurious?” Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of
15 Criminology, November 18, 2011, Washington, D.C.
16
- 17 2012 (with Dylan Jackson) “Adult unemployment and serious property crime: a
18 national case-control study.” Presented at the annual meetings of the American
19 Society of Criminology, November 15, 2012, Chicago, IL.
20
- 21 2013 (with Will Hauser) “Confidence in the Police and Fear of Crime: Do Police Force
22 Size and Productivity Matter?” Presented at the annual meetings of the American
23 Society of Criminology, November 22, 2013, Atlanta, GA.
24
- 25 2013. (with Dylan Jackson) “Adult unemployment and serious property crime: a
26 national case-control study.” Presented at the annual meetings of the American
27 Society of Criminology, November 22, 2013, Atlanta, GA.
28
- 29 2014 (with Dylan Jackson) "Does Crime Cause Punitiveness?" Presented at the annual
30 meetings of the American Society of Criminology, November 20, 2014, San
31 Francisco, CA.
32
- 33 2015 “The effect of large capacity magazines on the casualty counts in mass
34 shootings.” Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of
35 Criminology, November 18, 2015, Washington, D.C.
36
- 37 2015 (with Bethany Mims) “Article productivity among the faculty of criminology and
38 criminal justice doctoral programs, 2010-2014.” Presented at the annual
39 meetings of the American Society of Criminology, November 20, 2015,
40 Washington, D.C.
41
- 42 2016 “Firearms and the lethality of suicide methods.” Presented at the annual
43 meetings of the American Society of Criminology, November 16, 2016, New
44 Orleans, L.A.
45

1 2017 “Macro-level research on the effect of firearms prevalence on suicide rates: a
2 systematic review and new evidence.” Presented at the annual meetings of the
3 American Society of Criminology, November 15, 2017, Philadelphia, PA.

4
5 2018 “Interstate gun movement is almost entirely due to migration, not gun
6 trafficking.” Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of
7 Criminology, November 16, 2018, Atlanta, GA.

8
9 2019 “What do CDC’s surveys say about the prevalence of defensive gun use?”
10 Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of
11 Criminology, November 13, 2019, San Francisco, CA.

12
13 2020 “Compliance with universal background check requirements.” Accepted to be
14 presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology which
15 were to be held in Washington, D.C., November 18-21, 2020 but were cancelled
16 due to Covid-19 issues.

17
18 CHAIR

19
20 1983 Chair, session on Race and Crime. annual meetings of the American Society of
21 Criminology, Denver.

22
23 1989 Co-chair (with Merry Morash), roundtable session on problems in analyzing the
24 National Crime Surveys. annual meetings of the American Society of
25 Criminology, Reno.

26
27 1994 Chair, session on Interrupted Time Series Designs. annual meetings of the
28 American Society of Criminology, New Orleans.

29
30 1993 Chair, session on Guns, Gun Control, and Violence. annual meetings of the
31 American Society of Criminology, Phoenix.

32
33 1995 Chair, session on International Drug Enforcement. annual meetings of the
34 American Society of Criminology, Boston.

35
36 1999 Chair, Author-Meets-Critics session, More Guns, Less Crime. annual meetings of
37 the American Society of Criminology, Toronto.

38
39 2000 Chair, session on Defensive Weapon and Gun Use. annual meetings of the
40 American Society of Criminology, San Francisco.

41
42 2002 Chair, session on the Causes of Gun Crime. annual meetings of the American
43 Society of Criminology, Chicago.

44
45 2004 Chair, session on Protecting the Victim. annual meetings of the American Society

1 of Criminology, Nashville.

2
3 DISCUSSANT

- 4
5 1981 Session on Gun Control Legislation, annual meetings of the American Society of
6 Criminology, Washington, D.C.
7
8 1984 Session on Criminal Sentencing, annual meetings of the American Society of
9 Criminology, Cincinnati.
10
11 1986 Session on Sentencing, annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology,
12 Atlanta.
13
14 1988 Session on Gun Ownership and Self-protection, annual meetings of the Popular
15 Culture Association, Montreal.
16
17 1991 Session on Gun Control, annual meetings of the American Statistical
18 Association, Atlanta, Ga.
19
20 1995 Session on International Drug Enforcement, annual meetings of the American
21 Society of Criminology, Boston.
22
23 2000 Session on Defensive Weapon and Gun Use, annual meetings of the American
24 Society of Criminology, San Francisco.
25
26 2004 Author-Meets-Critic session on Guns, Violence, and Identity Among African-
27 American and Latino Youth, by Deanna Wilkinson. annual meetings of the
28 American Society of Criminology, Nashville.
29
30 2007 Session on Deterrence and Perceptions, University of Maryland 2007 Crime &
31 Population Dynamics Summer Workshop, Aspen Wye River Center, Queenstown
32 MD, June 4, 2007.
33
34 2009 Session on Guns and Crime, at the DeVoe Moore Center Symposium On
35 The Economics of Crime, March 26-28, 2009 .
36
37 2014 Panel discussion of news media coverage of high profile crimes
38 Held at the Florida Supreme Court On September 24-25, 2012, sponsored by the
39 Florida Bar Association as part of their 2012 Reporters' Workshop.
40

41 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

42
43 Editorial consultant -
44 American Sociological Review
45 American Journal of Sociology

1 Social Forces
2 Social Problems
3 Law and Society Review
4 Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency
5 Social Science Research
6 Criminology
7 Journal of Quantitative Criminology
8 Justice Quarterly
9 Journal of Criminal Justice
10 Violence and Victims
11 Violence Against Women
12 Journal of the American Medical Association
13 New England Journal of Medicine
14 American Journal of Public Health
15 Journal of Homicide Studies

16
17 Grants consultant, National Science Foundation, Sociology Program.

18
19 Member, Gene Carte Student Paper Committee, American Society of Criminology, 1990.

20
21 Area Chair, Methods Area, American Society of Criminology, annual meetings in Miami,
22 November, 1994.

23
24 Division Chair, Guns Division, American Society of Criminology, annual meetings in
25 Washington, D.C., November, 1998.

26
27 Dissertation evaluator, University of Capetown, Union of South Africa, 1998.

28
29 Division Chair, Guns Division, American Society of Criminology, annual meetings in
30 Washington, D.C., November, 1999.

31
32 Member of Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences selection committee for Editor of
33 Justice Quarterly, 2007.

34
35 Outside reviewer of Dr. J. Pete Blair for promotion to Full Professor in the School of
36 Criminal Justice at Texas State University, San Marcos, 2014.

37
38 UNIVERSITY SERVICE

39
40 Member, Master's Comprehensive Examination Committee, School of Criminology,
41 1979-1982.

42
43 Faculty Advisor, Lambda Alpha Epsilon (FSU chapter of American Criminal Justice
44 Association), 1980-1988.

45

1 Faculty Senate Member, 1984-1992.

2
3 Carried out campus crime survey for President's Committee on Student Safety and
4 Welfare, 1986.

5
6 Member, Strategic Planning and Budgeting Review Committee for Institute for Science
7 and Public Affairs, and Departments of Physics and Economics, 1986.

8
9 Chair, Committee on Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination in Research Methods, School of
10 Criminology, Summer, 1986.

11
12 Member, Committee on Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination in Research Methods, School
13 of Criminology, Summer, 1986 to 2016.

14
15 Chair, Committee on Graduate Assistantships, School of Criminology, Spring, 1987.

16
17 Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Computers, School of Criminology, Fall, 1987.

18
19 Member, Recruitment Committee, School of Criminology, Spring, 1988; Spring, 1989;
20 and 1989-90 academic year.

21
22 Member, Faculty Senate Committee on Computer-Related Curriculum, Spring, 1988 to
23 Fall, 1989.

24
25 Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Merit Salary Distribution, School of Criminology, Spring,
26 1988.

27
28 Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Enrollment Strains, Spring, 1989.

29
30 Member, Graduate Handbook Committee, School of Criminology, Spring, 1990.

31
32 Member, Internal Advisement Committee, School of Criminology Spring, 1990.

33
34 University Commencement Marshall, 1990 to 1993.

35
36 Member, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Teaching Incentive Program award
37 committee.

38
39 Chair, Faculty Recruitment Committee, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice,
40 1994-1995.

41
42 Chair, Committee on Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination in Research Methods, School of
43 Criminology and Criminal Justice, 1994-1995.

44
45 Member, University Computer and Information Resources Committee, 1995-1998.

1 Member, University Fellowship Committee, 1995 to 2000.

2 Member, University Library Committee, 1996 to 1999.

3
4
5
6 Chair, Electronic Access Subcommittee, University Library Committee, 1998 to 1999.

7
8 Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Merit Salary Increase Allocation, School of
9 Criminology and Criminal Justice, 1998-1999.

10
11 Member, Academic Committee, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, 2000-
12 2008t.

13
14 Member, Recruiting Committee, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, 2000-
15 2001.

16
17 Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee, School of Criminology and Criminal
18 Justice, 2000-2008.

19
20 Chair, Committee on Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination in Research Methods, School of
21 Criminology and Criminal Justice, 2000-2002.

22
23 Chair, Promotion and Tenure Committee, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice,
24 2001-2002.

25
26 Faculty Adviser, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Student
27 Association, 2001-2010.

28
29 Member, ad hoc committee on survey research, School of Criminology and Criminal
30 Justice, 2002.

31
32 Coordinator of Parts 2 and 4 of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Unit
33 Review, 2002.

34
35 Chair, Academic Committee, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, 2002-2003.

36
37 Director, Honors Programs, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, 2002-?.

38
39 Member, University Promotion and Tenure Committee, Fall, 2003 to ?.

40
41 Member of University Graduate Policy Committee, Fall 2003 to 2011.

42
43 Director of Graduate Studies, School (later College) of Criminology and Criminal
44 Justice, April 2004 to May 2015.

45

1 Chair, Promotion and Tenure Committee, College of Criminology and Criminal Justice,
2 2005-2006

3
4 Served as major professor on Area Paper by Christopher Rosbough, completed in 2012.

5
6 Served as member of dissertation committee of Kristen Lavin, dissertation completed in
7 2012.

8
9 Served as member of dissertation committee of Elizabeth Stupi, dissertation completed in
10 2013.

11
12 Served as outside member on two dissertation committees in 2014-2015: Brian Meehan
13 in the Department of Economics and Adam Weinstein in the English Department. Both
14 dissertations were completed.

15
16 Served as major professor on Area Paper on legalization of marijuana for Pedro Juan
17 Matos Silva, Spring 2015. Paper completed.

18
19 Served as major professor for doctoral students, Moonki Hong who defended his
20 dissertation on April 14, 2016.

21
22 PUBLIC SERVICE

23
24 Television, radio, newspaper, magazine, and Internet interviews concerning gun control,
25 racial bias in sentencing, crime statistics, and the death penalty. Interviews and other
26 kinds of news media contacts include Newsweek, Time, U.S. News and World Report,
27 New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, USA Today,
28 Boston Globe, Wall Street Journal, Kansas City Star, Philadelphia Inquirer,
29 Philadelphia News, Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta Journal, Arizona Republican, San
30 Antonio Express-News, Dallas Morning News, Miami Herald, Tampa Tribune,
31 Jacksonville Times-Union, Womens' Day, Harper's Bazaar, Playboy, CBS-TV (60
32 Minutes; Street Stories) ABC-TV (World News Tonight; Nightline), NBC-TV (Nightly
33 News), Cable News Network, Canadian Broadcasting Company, National Public Radio,
34 Huffington Post, PolitiFact.com, and many others.

35
36 Resource person, Subcommittee on Crime and Justice, (Florida House) Speaker's
37 Advisory Committee on the Future, February 6-7, 1986, Florida State Capitol.

38
39 Testimony before the U.S. Congress, House Select Committee on Children, Youth and
40 Families, June 15, 1989.

41
42 Discussant, National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences Symposium on the
43 Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior, April 1-4, 1990, Destin, Florida.

44
45 Colloquium on manipulation of statistics relevant to public policy, Statistics Department,

1 Florida State University, October, 1992.

2
3 Speech to faculty, students, and alumni at Silver Anniversary of Northeastern University
4 College of Criminal Justice, May 15, 1993.

5
6 Speech to faculty and students at Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico,
7 October, 1993.

8
9 Speech on the impact of gun control laws, annual meetings of the Justice Research and
10 Statistics Association, October, 1993, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

11
12 Testimony before the Hawaii House Judiciary Committee, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 12,
13 1994.

14
15 Briefing of the National Executive Institute, FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia, March
16 18, 1994.

17
18 Delivered the annual Nettler Lecture at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada,
19 March 21, 1994.

20
21 Member, Drugs-Violence Task Force, U.S. Sentencing Commission, 1994-1996.

22
23 Testimony before the Pennsylvania Senate Select Committee to Investigate the Use of
24 Automatic and Semiautomatic Firearms, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 16, 1994.

25
26 Delivered lectures in the annual Provost's Lecture Series, Bloomsburg University,
27 Bloomsburg, Pa., September 19, 1994.

28
29 Briefing of the National Executive Institute, FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia, June 29,
30 1995.

31
32 Speech to personnel in research branches of crime-related State of Florida agencies,
33 Research and Statistics Conference, sponsored by the Office of the State Courts
34 Administrator, October 19, 1995.

35
36 Speech to the Third Annual Legislative Workshop, sponsored by the James Madison
37 Institute and the Foundation for Florida's Future, February 5, 1998.

38
39 Speech at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement on the state's criminal justice
40 research agenda, December, 1998.

41
42 Briefing on news media coverage of guns and violence issues, to the Criminal Justice
43 Journalists organization, at the American Society of Criminology annual meetings in
44 Washington, D.C., November 12, 1998.

45

1 Briefing on gun control strategies to the Rand Corporation conference on "Effective
2 Strategies for Reducing Gun Violence," Santa Monica, Calif., January 21, 2000.

3
4 Speech on deterrence to the faculty of the Florida State University School of Law,
5 February 10, 2000.

6
7 Invited address on links between guns and violence to the National Research Council
8 Committee on Improving Research Information and Data on Firearms, November 15-16,
9 2001, Irvine, California.

10
11 Invited address on research on guns and self-defense to the National Research Council
12 Committee on Improving Research Information and Data on Firearms, January 16-17,
13 2002, Washington, D.C.

14
15 Invited address on gun control, Northern Illinois University, April 19, 2002.

16
17 Invited address to the faculty of the School of Public Health, University of Alabama,
18 Birmingham, 2004.

19
20 Invited address to the faculty of the School of Public Health, University of Pennsylvania,
21 March 5, 2004.

22
23 Member of Justice Quarterly Editor Selection Committee, Academy of Criminal Justice
24 Sciences, Spring 2007

25
26 Testified before the Gubernatorial Task Force for University Campus Safety, Tallahassee,
27 Florida, May 3, 2007.

28
29 Gave public address, "Guns & Violence: Good Guys vs. Bad Guys," Western Carolina
30 University, Cullowhee, North Carolina, March 5, 2012.

31
32 Invited panelist, Fordham Law School Symposium, "Gun Control and the Second
33 Amendment," New York City, March 9, 2012.

34
35 Invited panelist, community forum on "Students, Safety & the Second Amendment,"
36 sponsored by the Tallahassee Democrat.

37
38 Invited address at University of West Florida, Department of Justice Studies, titled
39 "Guns, Self-Defense, and the Public Interest," April 12, 2013.

40
41 Member, National Research Council Committee on Priorities for a Public Health
42 Research Agenda to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-related Violence, May 2013.

43
44 Invited address at Davidson College, Davidson, NC, April 18, 2014. Invited by the
45 Department of Philosophy.

1
2 Public lecture, "Do Guns Cause Homicide?," Center for the Study of Liberal Democracy,
3 University of Wisconsin-Madison, December 5, 2018.
4

5 OTHER ITEMS

6 Listed in:

7 Marquis Who's Who
8 Marquis Who's Who in the South and Southwest
9 Who's Who of Emerging Leaders in America
10 Contemporary Authors
11 Directory of American Scholars
12 Writer's Directory
13

14 Participant in First National Workshop on the National Crime Survey, College Park,
15 Maryland, July, 1987, co-sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the American
16 Statistical Association.
17

18 Participant in Second National Workshop on the National Crime Survey, Washington,
19 D.C., July, 1988.
20

21 Participant, Seton Hall Law School Conference on Gun Control, March 3, 1989.
22

23 Debater in Intelligence Squared program, on the proposition "Guns Reduce
24 Crime." Rockefeller University, New York City, October 28, 2008. Podcast distributed
25 through National Public Radio. Further details are available at
26 <http://www.intelligencesquaredus.org/Event.aspx?Event=36>.
27

28 Subject of cover story, "America Armed," in Florida State University Research in
29 Review, Winter/Spring 2009.
30

31 Grants reviewer, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2010.
32

33 Named one of "25 Top Criminal Justice Professors" in the U.S. by Forensics Colleges
34 website (<http://www.forensicscolleges.com/>), 2014.

